

York Band Instrument Co.

Air-Flow Cornets & Trumpets

Grand Rapids, MI

On November 24th, 1939, Alfred Johnson filed for a design patent on a unique trumpet / cornet design. This was granted #119,755 on April 2nd, 1940 and the patent drawing is shown below.

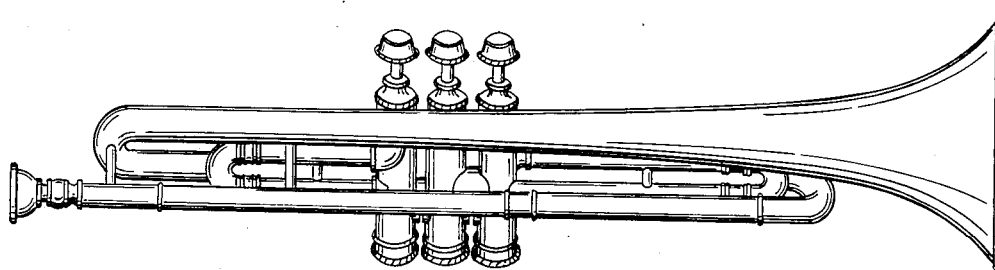


Fig. 1

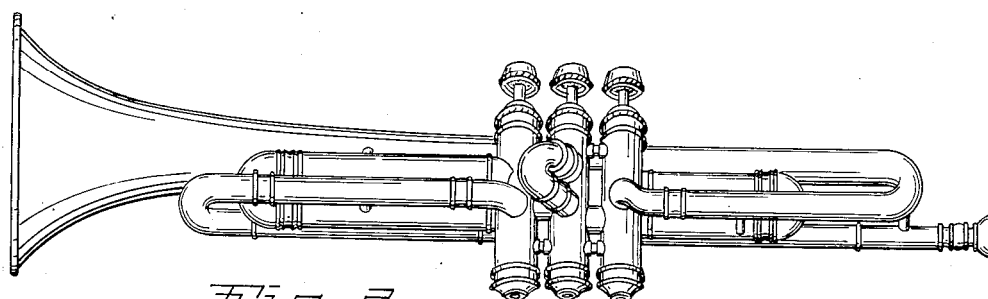


Fig. 2

York ends up making these from about 1938 until they sell the company in 1940. Serial numbers found on existing instruments range from 120319 to 124155. Owners of these instruments say that they are the best sounding that York ever made and some think they have the best sound of any maker. They have a 4.5" bell, a 0.468" bore, and the trumpet is 18.5" long. There is only a slight difference between the cornet and trumpet with the trumpet being 0.75" longer and having an angled brace from bell to receiver where the cornet has a straight brace.

The other unique feature of these is the rolled edge of the bell is inside rather than outside as shown on the design drawing. This gives it the look of a rimless bell. Thankfully, the final design is a little more elegant than the patent drawing.

Here are side by side photos of the cornet and trumpet.



In these photos, the trumpet seems quite a bit longer but I think it is just that the trumpet is closer in the frame. They were made in either lacquer or silver plate finish.

Here is cornet #120725



I believe this is the same one later restored. The bell braces were loose and the owner tried playing it without the front brace only to find he liked the sound better so left it off.



Cornet #121200



Cornet #121367



Cornet #122099



Cornet #122113



Cornet #122146



A few cornets that I don't have serial #s for





Trumpet #121064





Trumpet serial #?



Photos from auction sales and Horn-u-copia.net

Air Flow YORK

FOR
Streamlined
PLAYING

POWERFUL
as a
CHURCH
ORGAN

MODERN
as a
SKY-
SCRAPER

This horn is DIFFERENT . . . not for the mere sake of being different . . . but because scientific research has MADE it different. The "AIR-FLOW" has amazing power because it is an easier horn to blow. . . . It plays higher by 3 to 6 full tones. The new 45° angle hold cuts fatigue to a minimum. The AIR-FLOW is an easier and more comfortable instrument with unmatched tone. Write for literature and the name of your nearest YORK representative.

YORK BAND INSTRUMENT CO. Grand Rapids
Michigan



★ BLOWS EASIER
 ★ PLAYS FASTER
 ★ PLAYS HIGHER
 ★ CUTS FATIGUE



EASY TO HOLD

Notice the angle of the valves . . . at least 45° from the old position . . . a more comfortable and faster angle. It facilitates quick fingering and cuts fatigue to a minimum. This is not guesswork but the result of extensive experiment and research.



The "AIR-FLOW" Idea

Notice how the tone column flows in a constant upward movement from mouthpiece to bell. In the ordinary horn the tone column goes down then up. One scale will tell the story of easier blowing, thrilling power, increased range and more rapid execution.

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